Illimitable Determination

Purity is a very important part of Islam and there are certain acts of worship in Islam without purity these acts are not valid. The Holy Qur'an and Prophetic traditions emphasized in more than one occasion the importance of maintaining purity. Allah, the Exalted and Mighty states in the Holy Qur'an that, "…for Allah loves those who turn to Him constantly and He loves those who keep themselves pure and clean." (2:222)

In comparison other beliefs do not give much care to purity whether inwardly or outwardly. On the opposite, their followers brag themselves that water has not touched their body for the last so & so years.

The following account describes how a non-Muslim was extremely motivated by the Islamic emphasis on purity and cleanliness to

the extent that he was keen to know more about Islam.

Seadon was his name, a British by nationality and 20 years old. His story begins when he met a person from Bangladesh who - though not a very devout Muslim – talked to Seadon about the concept of purity and cleanliness and how important they are in Islam. Seadon was amazed by what he heard that he decided to study Islam thoroughly.

With the passage of time he became convinced of the truthfulness of Islam that he decided to become a Muslim. He changed his name to Muhammad Sadiq.

As a Muslim he started praying in the mosque with other Muslims. During his prayers, he had a feeling of discomfort for having to hold a small booklet of the transliteration of the Opening Chapter, "Al Fatiha" due to the fact that he could not read Arabic at that time. This strengthens his determination to make the decision to

memorize the Opening Chapter along with other short Chapters from the Holy Qur'an by heart.

Later on he faced another difficulty exemplified in the fact that he managed to recite these chapters but without understanding their meanings. Being a man of strong will and determination he overcame this difficulty by enrolling himself in courses to learning the Arabic language.

Achieving his goal to master the Arabic language he moved a step further to quench his thirst for deepening his knowledge about Islamic History. He chose general Islamic History as the subject for his M.A. thesis. Now he is preparing for his doctorate degree in the History of Muslims in Britain.

To fulfill the fifth pillar of Islam Seadon was among the dignitaries guest for the Muslim World League to perform pilgrimage.

Wise Ears Can Listen

Can you imagine how beautiful is the scene of sunset. Of course, it is charming. It will be more charming, too, if it is accompanied by the calling for prayer time. All of the senses then will interact together with this harmonious and indicative call.

Indeed, Abha a city to the South West of Saudi Arabia, is distinguished by its beautiful scenery, green high mountains and its good climate throughout the year.

Dr. Collen is originally British who came to work in the Southern Region of Saudi Arabia. Luckily, he attended many Islamic lectures.

One Friday, which was his usual weekend, he and his friend went to the heights of Suda, a national park in Aseer region. Both were enjoying the charming scenes of the sunset in that park.

Meanwhile, Collen heard not only one sound but many sounds, coming from different directions calling for the time of sunset (Maghrib) prayer. Their echo was coming from the horizon which woke up and stimulated special feelings in his mind and heart. Those sounds were reiterating different phrases which he could not understand. He felt as if he is not standing on his feet but rather soaring in the air.

He sat alone on a rock with this strange feeling that he had never felt before. He could not understand or explain it. After a while he thought that the secret behind this feeling is a clue to the secret of this life. After he had gone back to his apartment, he decided to seek the meaning of those phrases he heard. The best way is to read books or any references about Islam. He kept reading and reading and searching for a clue to this riddle. Finally, he

decided to embrace Islam and to choose it as a way of life.

Dr. Collen is 50 years old and he was very sad that he spent all those years of his age away from the Truth. Salem bin Dawood was his new name. After becoming a Muslim, he noticed this Qur'anic verse which reads:

> "This is the guidance of Allah with which He guides whomsoever He wills of His slaves. But if they had joined in worship others with Allah, all that they used to do would have been of no benefit to them. (Qur'an 6: 88)

Back in England, Dr. Salem is now an active and benevolent member in the communities, a voracious reader and a man of wide prospect.

Sacrifice Rewarded

As much as there are varieties in languages in India, there are varieties of beliefs also. Our heroine in this story is an Indian woman of 25 years old who came to work in Saudi Arabia as a nurse. Socially, she did not lack status and prestige for she belongs to the Brahmin caste, the highest in Hindu caste system. Professionally speaking she gained a degree in Nursing from Britain. She was also married to a famous lawyer from her caste.

Back in India she left her only daughter who was 6 years old, a nice house and a lot of relatives and friends.

The way of life Muslims live in Saudi Arabia attracted her interest. Although she was from the elite in her own society back home, yet the equality she noticed among the people here especially when the common and the prince stand side to side in the Mosque

worshiping One True God, all this draw her attention and caused her to reconsider her inherited religious belief. She noticed people greeting each other although they have not met before. Good manners and modesty attracted and amazed her along with the simple easy life that people lead.

A spiritual conflict developed within her and, having an inquisitive mind, motivated her to search and search. She kept bombarding her colleagues with questions upon questions which they were happy to answer. Then she reached a stage when she decided that Islam is the right way. So she testified that there is no one worthy of worship except Allah, the Only True God and that Muhammad (pbuh) is His messenger. She enjoyed a peace of mind and tranquility thereafter.

However this life is but a trial. Even Prophets and Messengers passed through ordeals and trials among of which Prophet

Muhammad himself (pbuh) and his Companions and their followers and those to follow. Our heroine was no exception. Her ordeal and test for her real faith and patience started as soon as her husband came to know that she reverted to Islam when she sincerely invited him to save his soul and worship the Only True God. He threatened her and accused her of madness. Even prophets were accused of being lunatics, magicians, or falsifiers. She stood firm and constant in her faith choosing God's pleasure and the everlasting life in the Hereafter and sacrificing the husband, the daughter and the community.

She passed the ordeal and was rewarded with spiritual settlement and active role in this life. She increased her knowledge about Islam and became very active member in her new community. At present she heads the ladies section in her Communities Center and many people were guided to Islam through her. She

is married to a devout Indian Muslim and changed her name to Mona which means "utmost hope" in Arabic.

Mona's account reminds us of a very relevant Qur'anic verse which reads:

And who is better in speech than he who (says: "My Lord is Allah (believes in His Oneness)," and then stands straight (acts upon His Order), and) invites (men) to Allah (Islamic Monotheism), and does righteous deeds, and says: "I am one of the Muslims."
(Chapter 41, Verse 33)

The Light of Truth

Rederico is a Pilipino mechanical engineer who decided to leave his country to work in Saudi Arabia. To him, Saudi Arabia is the land of his dreams. It is the land where he can work hard and build his future. He was longing for prosperity and happy life.

On the contrary, his parents did not want him to go anywhere specially to Saudi Arabia.. They consider Saudi Arabia the land where foreigners' principles and beliefs can be changed easily. Consequently, his parents were afraid that their son may leave his original religion and embrace "Islam". For this reason, they took an oath from him not to leave his religion, the religion of his predecessors'. Furthermore, they reminded him that the Bible is the Final Revelation. He swore to them that he will adhere to his pledge

no matter what happens. He also promised them he will not think of any thing except his work.

As a matter of fact, Rederico was an obedient son because he lived in Abha for two years concentrating on nothing but his work and how he could gain a lot of money. He also kept his promise to his parents by cutting himself off from all people as if he was living alone in a deserted place.

During his stay nothing drew his attention about the religion of the host country. Even the sounds of (Adhan) call to prayers repeated five times a day did not find their way to his ears. He never shared any occasion of the Muslims nor enjoyed the beautiful scenes of the city as if he was deaf and blind.

One day, he took a taxi to Khamis Mushait, which is 25 kilometers from Abha. By chance, he saw a green sticker, on the rear glass of the taxi, saying "Read the Holy Qur'an. It is the

last Revelation." He could not believe what he just read. He was shocked and it seemed that the earth was spinning around him. His mind got confused and he could not think properly. Many questions flooded his mind, "Which book is the Last Revelation, the Bible or the Holy Qur'an?!" "Which religion should he believe in Christianity or Islam?!!" "Who is going to explain this matter to him?!!" "Who will solve this riddle for him?!!"
Failing to get the right answers and to distinguish Truth from Falsehood, resulted in many sleepless nights.

Finally, a splendid idea struck his mind. He determined to read the Scared Book of the Muslims, the Qur'an, and to find out the truth by his own self. So he bought a copy of the English translation of the meaning of the Holy Qur'an and spent days and days reading it thoroughly and comprehensively. The Light of

Truth emerged and he must face it and accept it.

The Truth shone like a bright sun in the sky of Rederico's life and he could neither ignore nor reject it. This reality has changed his life completely.

He reached the conclusion that the Holy Qur'an is really the Final Revelation therefore he decided to accept the Truth and embrace Islam. He changed his name to "Saleem".

In fact, his case declares to the whole world what has been stated in the Holy Qur'an: Chapter 17, verse 81

> And say: "Truth has (now)
> arrived, and Falsehood
> perished:
> for Falsehood is (by its
> nature)
> bound to perish."

Rocks Can Soften

This is a story related by a Saudi old man about his unhappy experience with the Sri Lankan housemaid who came to help his wife. He narrates:

"Since she came to our house, she was rude, and treating us badly and aggressively. Most of the time, she was shouting at us without any reason and talking unrespectfully to us. When we receive some visitors, she never serves them. She does not listen to the instructions given to her by my wife or even me. At the very beginning, we thought that her rudeness is due to her ignorance about the traditions and customs of our country. But we discovered, later, that it is her habit. She was as stubborn as a rock. Even offering her more money besides her salary did not change her rudeness and negligence. Whenever we try to explain

anything to her concerning her work, she pretends that she does not understand and then leaves us and goes to her room. We were patient and helpless. Truly, a miracle was needed to change this stubborn and cruel housemaid.

As for us, we were treating her fairly, justly and kindly because Islam is the religion of good manners. Besides, we were always invocating God to guide her to the right path. As a matter of fact, without Divine guidance, all our attempts and other strenuous efforts are in vain. Allah the Exalted and Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an:

Verily! You (O Muhammad (pbuh)) guide not whom you like, but Allah guides whom He wills. And He knows best those who are the guided. (Chapter 28; Verse 56)

From time to time we try to discuss basic Islamic principals with her, but unfortunately,

she would not respond. During this period of time we were really trying a lot to save her, hoping that she might change her mind one day and accept Islam.

Meanwhile, she was watching our attitudes, and actions, specially our way of worshipping God. One day, she came to me and said that she was affected very much by our good treatment and also expressed her desire to imitate us in our worship. She enquired about prayers. I informed her that it is called "Salah". She wanted to follow us in this act but was told that to perform it one has to be a Muslim. She asked how one can become a Muslim. We told her 'by pronouncing the two testimonies of Faith'.

She decided to pronounce the two testimonies and embrace Islam. This incident was nothing less than a miracle which we were hoping to take place. After her reversion she became a completely different person. God has

answered our invocation and has changed her heart of stone (stubbornness) to a heart of flesh (politeness & humbleness). It was as if that solid rock had become as soft as cotton. Allah, the Exalted and Almighty says: "The good deed and the evil deed cannot be equal. Repel (the evil) with one which is better (i.e. Allah orders the faithful believers to be patient at the time of anger, and to excuse those who treat them badly) Then verily he, between whom and you there was enmity, (will become) as though he was a close friend." (Chapter 41; verse 34)

We changed her name from "Rohini" to "Rehana" which means a nice flower in Arabic. When she saw the positive effects Islam had on her personality she wanted to share these with her immediate family and close relatives. It resulted in the reversion to Islam of her husband, her 14 years old son and her two sisters.

Mosque Has Its Own Attraction

Prayer is the second pillar among the five pillars of Islam, and it should be performed in congregation. Therefore mosques are built to enable members of Muslim Communities to offer it inside those mosques. As soon as (Adhan) call for prayer is announced, Muslims rush to answer this sublime call leaving behind all their worldly affairs.

This sight initiated the beginning of the spiritual journey of Sakar Kansly, a young man from Sri Lanka. He is 25 years old, Buddhist by religion, who came to Saudi Arabia to improve his financial status.

He was fascinated by seeing, for the first time, the different shapes and sizes of mosques with their long minarets. He was amazed to see groups of people from different nationalities going to perform their prayers in

the mosque after they hear the call for prayers. What he was witnessing attracted him so much that he was obliged to ask questions to those who regularly visit the mosque. He asked them "Why do you go to these places? And "What do you find in them?!!" They simply answered him, "We pray to Allah, the Lord of the world and the Creator of all human beings. Besides, we find peace, happiness and tranquility in praying."

Now he got curious, and he decided to enter one of these mosques secretly to see what it contains. One day he got the chance he was seeking, when the people were busy in their works and he was sure that the mosque would be empty he made his move. He quietly opened the door and entered inside the mosque for the first time in his life. He noticed the furnished area, the pillars, the pulpit , the prayer niche and the white plain walls. He was surprised by what he saw. It was totally in

contrast to his temple where he finds walls decorate with paintings, statues everywhere, oil lamps and incense burning. While here he finds an atmosphere of calmness & serenity that induce contemplation and peace of mind.

Looking around, he spotted copies of the Holy Qur'an which attracted him in a magnetic way. This attraction moved his curiosity to know more about the nature of the Creator Whose portents are manifested everywhere and to know about the purpose of his existences. He noticed Muslims enjoying a meaningful life around him and noticed their peaceful form of worship. All this lead him to take the decision of his life i.e. to revert to Islam and be among those who are peacefully worshiping One True God and who live for a purpose in this life. Now Sakar go openly to offer his prayers in the mosque with his brothers in faith.

Having found the happiness in the True religion, he decided to invite others – starting with his close relatives – to Islam and to remind them that they should not waste any more time. They should heed to the call of all Prophets by submitting to the Only True God.

Sakar's spiritual journey reminds us of the Qur'anic verse which reads:

> The mosques of God
> Shall be visited and maintained
> By such as believe in Allah
> And the Last Day, establish
> Regular prayers, and practise
> regular charity,
> And fear none (at all) except
> God.
> It is they who are expected to be
> on true guidance.(Chapter 9 ,
> Verse 18)

Faithful Return

This is the story of three women from Philippine who came to work as dress-makers in Saudi Arabia. Their sponsor had provided them accommodation in the same shop where they were working. Their supervisor was the sister of their sponsor. This lady was a pious Muslim with noble manners. As Muslims always start their work with the pronunciation, "Bismi Allah" which means "In the name of God" she also advised them to do so. Since their belief was different from her she explained to them that it is pronounced to gain God's help to finish the job and to have it blessed.

As Muslims are required to pray five times a day, their supervisor used to fulfill her obligation towards her God by daily performance of the prayers in the shop. Apart

from this the three Philipinas observed that she was always remembering and invocating Allah. Sometimes they found her to attentively listening to the recitation of the Holy Qur'an or Islamic lectures on the recorder set. This three Philipinas had not seen a Muslim performing their prayers to their God so they found this action somewhat strange. They had no knowledge of Arabic language hence when their supervisor was supplicating to her God they could not understand its meaning. All of this made them very curious to know what was the aim & reason behind these actions and supplications.

To get answers to their question they were searching for an English speaking customer, but they found out that most of them were Arabic speakers. At last they found a lady who could communicate with them in English. They grabbed this opportunity and flooded her with all their questions. This lady was more

than happy to provide them with books and cassettes which went a long way in helping these Philipinas to learn more about Islam and increased their knowledge about the host culture.

Finally, having satisfied their curiosity about those things which they had found strange, they took the ultimate step, they wanted to revert to the True religion. They asked their supervisor as to how they can embrace Islam. When she heard this she was delighted and gladly offered to help them. She in turn informed her brother about this good news. He took them to the Communities Center where they pronounced the Testimonies of Faith.

The Blessing of Crisis

Goetim is an Orthodox Christian from Eritrea whose hatred to Islam and Muslims is unlimited. There was no rational cause for such hatred. However the Holy Qur'an mentions certain type of people stating: "Or have they partners with Allah (false Gods) who insisted for them a religion which Allah has not ordained?"

Neither Goetim, nor his wife knows anything about Islam. He started reading about it in order to acquaint himself with the belief of the people he is going to deal with in Saudi Arabia, since he is going to work as a shepherd in one of its southern cities.

There were eighty-four passengers including Goetim on the ship that was sailing from Eritrea to Saudi Arabia. During the voyage, there was a thunderstorm. All the passengers

were at panic and started screaming and calling for help except the four sailors who were repeating, "La Ilaha Ila Allah, Muhammad Rasool Allah." It means, "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger."

Goetim was the only passenger who was repeating the same phrase with the Muslims.

The ship was wrecked and all the passengers drowned except Goetim and the four sailors who were rescued by an Eritrean boat.

What had happened caused Goetim to reconsider his previous preconcepts about Islam and Muslims. He wondered about the survival of only those four people. He looked upon this incident as a reminder to him from God to save his soul and to direct his worship from now on to the only True God who has neither a son nor a father. So he took the most wise decision in his life or in any one's life and

that is to submit to his Creator, the Only True God and to relieve himself of his former misconcepts about Islam.

He then declared his confirmed belief in Allah and His apostle, Muhammad (pbuh) and chose the name Othman for the remaining phase of his life.

GIVE IT A TRY

Dear Reader,

May God's guidance be with you .

During the course of time, I am sure that you would have pondered about the reason for your coming into this world and your purpose for living.

Many people have thought about it, and while some have dismissed such a thought as quickly as it came, others endeavored to get enlightenment on it.

In so doing, the majority have turned to religion, but we hear of many "seekers of Truth" complaining about their dissatisfaction with what religion has to offer.

Unfortunately, Islam was not tried, and, as a result a very important and effective "way of life", rich with meaning and purpose, full of moral and spiritual values, consoling and comforting in times of distress, encouraging and leading on for the devoted, is passing by unnoticed.

Life is a scared gem which should not be wasted, as every day that has passed is one less to be lived. Its purpose is to establish a strong link with the Originator and Creator, the One Living God, Allah.

We are therefore inviting you to turn Him, and Him alone, and to submit to His Divinely Revealed Commands, the prescription for everlasting peace, i.e. Islam.

We Humbly request you to visit our website : www.islamunveiled.org